

## Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 281300Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3777

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0147 FEB 74

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS : PINS, SF

SUBJ :STRICT SECURITY MEASURES ENACTMENT

REF : CAPE TOWN 126 AND A-13

1. COMPLETING ITS LAST ORDER OF BUSINESS, THE PASSAGE OF TWO CONTROVERSIAL INTERNAL SECURITY BILLS(REFS). PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED FEBRUARY 27. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ANNOUNCED THAT NEW PARLIAMENT AS CONSTITUTED AFTER APRIL 24 GENERAL ELECTION WILL CONVENE AUGUST 2.

2. NEWLY ADOPTED LEGISLATION, RIOTOUS ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT BILL AND AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS BILL, WAS ENACTED WITH NO CHANGES IN LANGUAGE OF BILLS AS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED. OPPOSITION UNITED PARTY (UP) FAILED TO WIN ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES AMENDMENT BILL. IT ALSO WAS UNABLE TO DEFER PASSAGE OF AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS BILL UNTIL SCHGEBUSCH COMMISSION REPORTS TABL. ASWING UP TO SUPPORT LATTER BILL, VORSTER APPEALED FOR OPPOFITION TO JOIN GOVERNMENT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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COMBATING 'GENERAL EVIL' FACING SOUTH AFRICA AND SAID FOREIGN

ASSISTANCE TO 'FRONT ORGANIZATIONS' WAS COMING FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES SEEKING THE DOWNFALL OF SOUTH AFRICA'.

3. ALONG WITH CONDEMNATION BY SA LIBERALS, THERE HAS BEEN SOME MUTED EXPRESSION OF CONCERN WITHIN NATIONALIST CAMP. FOR EXAMPLE, AN AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER, DIE VADERLAND, SAID THAT, WHILE 'NO FAULT CAN BE FOUND WITH OBJECTS' OF RIOTOUS ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT BILL, 'IT IS A LAW WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE HANDLED WITH GREAT CARE AND DISCRETION.' THE PAPER SAID IT UNHAPPY ABOUT DELEGATION OF WIDE POWERS TO MINOR OFFICIALS, AS FOR THE AFJAT OYSN7"-589, '8', DIE VADERLAND SAID ITS LANGUAGE WAS TOO VAGUE AND LEFT IT UNCLEAR ON WHAT GROUNDS AN ORGANIZATION COULD BE DECLARED TO AN AN 'AFFECTED' ORGANIZATION.

4. HOWEVER, MOST NATIONALISTS CAN BE EXPECTED FULLY TO SUPPORT SA'S RATHER FOR FURTHER RESTRICTING CIVIL RIGHTS OF SOUTH AFRICANS. CAPE NATIONALIST NEWSPAPER, DIE BURGER, SUMMED THIS UP VERY APTLY IN RECENT EDITORIAL REFERRING TO THE TWO BILLS: 'ON THE VITALLY IMPORTANT QUESTION OF INTERNAL SECURITY...THERE IS IN SOUTH AFRICA PERHAPS A MORE COMPREHENSIVE CONSENSUS ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC THAN ON ANY OTHER MATTER. OVER MANY YEARS THE ORDINARY SOUTH AFRICAN, AND NOT ONLY UNDER THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT, HAS SHOWN THAT IN THIS FIELD HE DESIRES A STRONG GOVERNMENT, AND HE IS NOT SUSPICIOUS OF STRICT PREVENTIVE MEASURES, IN SPITE OF REPEATED CAMPAIGNS TO INCITE HIM AGAINST EMERGENCY POWERS--- THIS IS THE SOUTH AFRICAN REALITY, NO MATTER HOW UNSATISFACTORY IT MAY BE TO DEMOCRATIC PURISTS'.

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## Message Attributes

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